

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00782 031553Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 AF-04 NSC-05 NSCE-00
IO-06 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
ACDA-10 EB-04 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /071 W
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R 031435Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1084
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T ALEXANDRIA 0782

LIMDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR IN ALEXANDRIA

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EG, SO, US
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH SADAT ON SOMALIA

REF: (A) ALEXANDRIA 0779(NOTAL). (B) ALEXANDRIA 775
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SECRET

PAGE 02 ALEXAN 00782 031553Z

(NOTAL), (C) STATE 180916

1. DURING TALK WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND FAHMY IN
ALEXANDRIA, AUGUST 2, SECRETARY VANCE INDICATED THAT
WE HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDE ARMS FOR SOMALIA,
BUT THAT WE WANT TO TALK TO THE SOMALIS FURTHER ABOUT
THEIR SPECIFIC REQUESTS. WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE

ARMS SOLELY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES, NOT FOR USE IN THE OGADEN. A SOMALI MILITARY TEAM WILL SHORTLY VISIT WASHINGTON. SECRETARY INDICATED THAT SIAD BARRE SEEMS TO WANT TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE SOVIETS, BUT STILL SEEMS TO BE HEDGING HIS BETS. THE SECRETARY ALSO NOTED THAT OUR INFORMATION IS MIXED ON WHETHER OR NOT THE SOVIETS HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM SOMALIA. A FEW WEEKS AGO WE HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THEY WERE WITHDRAWING. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE HAVE HAD NEW INFORMATION NEGATING THE INITIAL REPORT.

2. THIS PROMPTED FAHMY TO MENTION THE LATEST SOMALI ARMS REQUEST OF EGYPT (REF A). HE OPINED THAT SIAD BARRE IS IN FACT POLITICALLY SHOWING HIS RESENTMENT OF THE SOVIETS. SADAT ADDED THAT WHEN BREZHNEV HAD RECENTLY INVITED SIAD BARRE TO COME TO MOSCOW, THE SOMALI PRESIDENT HAD REFUSED TO DO SO. HE, SADAT, HAD MANAGED TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN SIAD BARRE AND KING KHALID OF SAUDI ARABIA AFTER THE SAUDIS HAD INITIALLY BEEN RELUCTANT.

3. SADAT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOE CANNOT BE SURE THAT SIAD BARRE IS MOVING AWAY FROM THE SOVIETS, BUT OPINED THAT THE "BITTERNESS" WHICH THE EGYPTIANS SENSE THE SOMALI PRESIDENT HAS FOR THE SOVIETS HAS CAUSED GOE CONCLUDE THAT HE IS ANXIOUS TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ALEXAN 00782 031553Z

SOVIETS IF HE CAN FIND SOME RELIABLE ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF ASSISTANCE. SADAT SAID HE HAS ADVISED SIAD BARRE TO PROVE HIS INTENTIONS BY MOVING THE SOVIETS OUT OF THEIR BERBERA SUBMARINE BASE AS A STARTER. SIAD BARRE HAD PROMISED TO DO SO. GOE IS NOW WAITING TO SEE WHETHER THIS WILL TAKE PLACE.

4. RE REF C, HAVE NOT THUS FAR PROVIDED EGYPTIANS WITH LIST OF ARMS SOMALIS HAVE REQUESTED FROM US. WILL DO SO, HOWEVER, WHEN I NEXT SEE FAHMY AND TELL HIM OF OUR REACTION TO THE LIST. CHASE

SECRET

NNN

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